

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

KNOWLTON, SCOTT et al.

Serial No. : 10/691,244

Filed: October 22, 2003

VACUUM PACKAGING APPARATUS
AND METHOD

Docket No. 33051-CNT1

Group Art Unit No. 3721

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

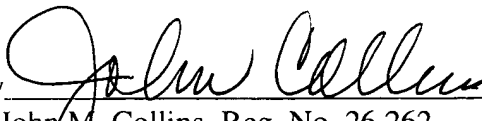
Sir:

TRANSMITTAL

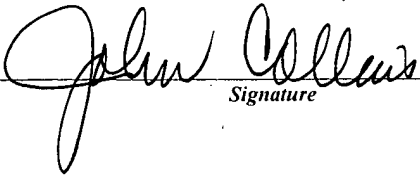
Transmitted herewith are: Amendment Transmittal (small entity); Preliminary Amendment (9 pgs.); and return postcard. These documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 1, 2004.

EL 993327237 US

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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816/474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity) Applicant(s): KNOWLTON, SCOTT et al.				Docket No. 33051-CNT1				
Serial No. 10/691,244	Filing Date October 22, 2003	Examiner	Group Art Unit 3721					
Invention: VACUUM PACKAGING APPARATUS AND METHOD								
<u>TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>								
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.								
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity status of this application has been established under 37 CFR 1.27 by a verified statement previously submitted.								
<input type="checkbox"/> A verified statement to establish Small Entity status under 37 CFR 1.27 is enclosed.								
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.								
CLAIMS AS AMENDED								
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE			
TOTAL CLAIMS	15 -	20 =	0 x	\$9.00	\$0.00			
INDEP. CLAIMS	3 -	3 =	0 x	\$43.00	\$0.00			
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00			
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.								
 _____ <i>Signature</i>			Dated: April 1, 2004					
John M. Collins, Reg. No. 26,262 Hovey Williams LLP 2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400 Kansas City, Missouri 64108 (816) 474-9050			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on _____ with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px; vertical-align: bottom; padding: 5px;"> _____ <i>Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px; vertical-align: bottom; padding: 5px;"> _____ <i>Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</i> </td> </tr> </table>			I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on _____ with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	_____ <i>Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</i>	_____ <i>Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</i>
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Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Amendment of the above application prior to action on the merits is solicited.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.